

Service Date: May 8, 1992

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER Of the Application)	
Of BLACK HILLS CORPORATION d/b/a)	UTILITY DIVISION
BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT CO.,)	DOCKET NO. 92.3.15
For Authority to Increase Their)	DEFAULT ORDER NO. 5620
Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider.)	
<hr/>		

On March 30, 1992, Black Hills Corporation d/b/a Black Hills Power and Light Company (BHP&L or Applicant) filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission pursuant to Sections 69-3-101 et seq., MCA, for an order authorizing the Applicant to increase its electric rates in order to reflect the increased cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of December 1991 and January and February, 1992.

On April 2, 1992, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity For Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated, "If, however, no hearing is requested by April 27, 1992, the Commission will consider the matter and a default order may be issued."

Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by the Applicant in support of its application and deeming itself fully advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. If increased fuel costs for the months of December, 1991, January and February, 1992 are to be recovered, a charge of \$.01428 must be added to the base fuel cost of \$.01240 approved in Docket No. 83.4.25, which results in a total fuel charge of \$.02668 per KWH. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider will increase revenues by approximately \$86,732 above fuel costs authorized in Docket No. 83.4.25.

2. The number of customers presently being served in Montana is 58.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceeding in this matter.

2. The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of May, June and July, 1992 is \$.01428 per KWH. This charge shall be added to the base fuel cost approved in Docket No. 83.4.25.

2. The approved rates shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after May 1, 1992.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana on 27th day of April 1992, by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DANNY OBERG, Chairman

WALLACE W. "WALLY" MERCER, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

TED C. MACY, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Peck
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.